



**TAIPEI EUROPEAN SCHOOL**

台北歐洲學校

# EUROPEAN SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWSLETTER

Edition 4.0    Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2008

## Message from the Head of Secondary

Dear parents, students and friends of TES

Our thanks to the British Section PTA and student helpers for their tremendous efforts to make bonfire night a huge success this year, despite some very heavy rain (photographs will be included in newsletter 5).

The recent high school parent-teacher meeting night was well attended and it is reassuring to see the level of parental interest in your son/daughter's education. There will be another evening in term 2 following the H2 and H4 mock exams.

On Tuesday, our school day was based around the International Day of Tolerance. Perhaps "tolerance" is not the right word to describe the theme of the day as one of the aims of our school is to develop an attitude of genuine acceptance of others.

Our U13 FOBISSEA team and our O15 football teams are currently participating in regional events in Penang and Phuket respectively and we hope they have a successful and enjoyable competition.

Sincerely

Roger Schultz, Head of Secondary

## FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	U13 Fobissea Games - team departs for Penang
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	O15 Football in Phuket
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	MUN team departs for Singapore
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	H1 Drama performance
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	H2 Drama performance
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Newsletter 5
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	TES Christmas Bazaar

**SCHOOL WEBSITE: [www.taipeieuropeanschool.com](http://www.taipeieuropeanschool.com)**



**CONTACT:** Taipei European School, Swire European Secondary Campus, 31 Jian Ye Road, Shihlin, Taipei 11193, Taiwan. Telephone: +886 2 2862 2920 Ext

This week we held International Day of Tolerance at the ESC, this was a PSHE Focus Day. Our aim was to mark 'Remembrance', and address 'Tolerance' for a day in view of International Day of Tolerance this coming Sunday. We wanted to explore themes, personal, local and global that would encourage us to reflect on how we perceived others and what we could each do to bring about positive change both now and in the future. A range of activities were prepared to challenge students and throughout the day they moved from one 'experience' to another. We were looking to develop critical thinkers who could think beyond themselves and 'be' the change that society needs. We presented 'difficult issues' for discussion and acted as facilitators - the focus of the day was on the views of students.

We were privileged to meet Ms Nicole Yang of Harmony Home, some of her staff and several of the children who are living with HIV who enchanted us all. We also learned a great deal about the service guide dogs provide for the blind through a presentation delivered by HuiKuang Guide Dog Centre and we were able to present over 17,000 NT donated by our students to these organisations.

Under the guidance of Mr Haas and Mr Bean a group of keen journalists tracked the days events and the following interesting articles are the result. Pictures are supplied by the 'chroniclers' another group whose mission was to help record the day under the guidance of Mr Marshall.

### *The 'Press' for the day bring you: 'The Key Stage 3 Experience'*

During International Day of Tolerance, Key stage 3 got involved in a series of workshops. They received talks and completed activities on 'Shared Humanity', 'Disability and coping with disability', and the concept of SEAL.

First, a group of students went to a workshop on what it must be like to have to cope with disability. They put a football kit on over their regular clothes in complete darkness to see how difficult it must be to do the same task for blind people, and smelt food while blindfolded and had to try and identify it. Finally, they were given a blindfold, taken around an obstacle course, and then had to try and complete it solo.

Not only was this greatly enjoyed by the students, but it also taught them what life must be like for people who live with these disabilities. They learnt that the simplest task can be made near impossible by blindness. For example, on average, it took 3 minutes for the students to put on the PE kit in darkness, and absolutely no-one put on a perfect kit, with no mistakes.

What *does* SEAL mean? The same group of students found this out next. It means Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning. In the Drama Area, the International Day of Tolerance took a dramatic perspective. First Mrs. Bracken asked the children, in groups of three, to come up with a sentence and made it into a problem. E.g. I like to drink coffee, becoming I drink too much coffee. Then they turned that into a conversation with one person having the problem, one person being sympathetic and one being unsympathetic towards them. This worked swiftly and effectively, even if the children were in different year groups and gender they worked as if they had all been friends forever. "No one should tolerate bullying" commented Mrs. Bracken after a group showed their conversation.

Finally she asked questions to some students,

"What was the problem?" and "Who was sympathetic and unsympathetic?"



“Tolerance is to understand different people from you.” Was the definition of tolerance given as the group of students moved to the third stop. Mr. Edwards, Mr. Turner and Mr. Papps showed the students a presentation about playing sport with disabilities, the Paralympics and a slide about a man, Oscar Pistorius, who even though he had his legs amputated at the age of 11 months and was told he would never walk again, kept the faith. He had artificial limbs put on, became a Paralympic gold medalist, and even ran against healthy athletes. Then the students watched videos about the Paralympics. With a lot of excitement the KS3 students walked over to the gym for some games! Firstly the boys started to play volleyball.....but you had to play sitting down and the girls played basketball with their legs tied to their partners and they could only use one arm .After many laughs the boys and girls switched.

Then the students realized that walking canes for the blind aren't always the best; the blind may also need a companion such as a guide dog which can help them avoid obstacles. People from the HuiKuang Guide Dog Centre came to talk to the students about the impact guide dogs make on blind people's lives. Labradors and Golden retrievers guide the blind everywhere, keeping them company at the same time. Many people become attached to the dogs and are emotionally hurt when having to part from them. These dogs are trained to be loyal servants as well as trustworthy guiders. “Have you ever seen a dog run into a wall?” (Quoted a person wishing to stay anonymous). Also, Ms Nicole Yang, representatives from Harmony Home Shelter gave a talk and explained that people who are HIV + are not to be feared. The highlight was meeting several children living with HIV.



Finally, this group went to the last, but not least, stop for the day: Shared Humanity. Shared Humanity or Cultural Universals are things that everyone has, such as: everyone belongs to a family. It is important to explore your cultural universals to see how much you have in common with other people in the world. Some examples of cultural universals are as follows; everyone can speak a language, everyone can feel pain, happiness, anger and jealousy. The students learnt about this because they must realize that when it gets down to it, we are all very similar.

The vast majority of the students enjoyed this day, and will remember it for a long time. They learnt a lot about how to tolerate people around them, and why it is important that we continue to do so.

### *The 'High School Experience'*

The first International Day of Tolerance was observed by the General Assembly on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 1996, following in the wake of the United Nations Year of Tolerance sparked by the adoption of the United Nation's Declaration of Principles on Tolerance. On this day, activities were directed towards both educational institutions as well as the general public to advance human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as to encourage tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples.

On the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> November, an awed silence fell upon the atrium of the Phase II building of the Taipei European Secondary Campus as the *Bugle Call* ('the last post' played by Mr Papps) marked the beginning of Remembrance Day and the International Day of Tolerance.

After the assembly, the groups divided and each went to their sessions. One of these groups began the day with the topic of *Conflict*. “We had a discussion about a [recent] conflict situation in Taiwan,” Robert (H4) said at the end of the session. The majority of the group had to debate whether or not the recent protest against the signing of negotiations between Taiwan and China should have taken place; six others had to identify what animal characteristics were being shown during the discussion. An example of an animal characteristic was the chameleon: someone who changes opinion depending on other people present. “I was a turtle,” said Robert, “sitting in my shell and listening to what others had to say!” The session was concluded with some reflections on the debate, for example what barriers there were and what qualities are most desirable in someone when solving quarrels.

Another session was one on *Extremism*, which made a very impressive start, showing various video clips of political activists from the past. The group was then divided into two, one half handling the link between extremism and language by analysing newspaper headlines and editing some of them to make them more extreme, the other discussion dilemmatic questions such as *Should abortion be allowed?* The main message of both was, in Courtney's words (H1), "you need to talk [to each other] about why you believe in something". "I liked it," said Ricardo (H2), "because [the activity] showed us how we can cooperate and understand each other better."

The *Race and Discrimination* session worked through several interesting activities with various groups of students. Students were issued a questionnaire on race and racism to find out what their opinions are on these sensitive issues. A picture of an imaginary student by the name of Elliot was presented to the students who were then asked to use a word to describe what they know about his name. Similar activities were run again with topics on how the students defined "race" from their questionnaire results. An extension activity was run by splitting the students and giving each group different BBC articles for them to discuss, summarize and share. The session concluded with students speaking their thoughts on *Race and Discrimination* - Mehul (H2) thinks that it is globally crucial for people "to accept us for who we are".

The *Pioneer* session began with a discussion on problems and injustices in TES, Taiwan, Asia and the word, and what the students want to change. After the discussion, a slide show was presented, which included a "Who am I?" quiz and an introduction of Dr. Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as a short speech about non-violence. "It is not power that corrupts but fear. Fear of losing power corrupts those who wield it and fear of the scourge of power to those who are subject of it."

Selected Art students participated in creative activities set up for this special event by the Art Department. Students were asked to be blindfolded while they attempted draw flowers and icons to represent tolerance while being directed by other students. Then, they were instructed to select photos with strong themes that linked to *Remembrance* for a group collage on an impressively sized canvas. The idea was to learn to trust others while collaboratively combining each other's creative ideas. Vivian (H2) says, "This was actually quite hard... [when you are blindfolded] you feel like you lose your ability to properly draw a picture, but through this activity, I feel like I have developed better bonds of trust between myself and my friends."

By the end of the day, everyone appeared to have enjoyed themselves immensely.

### *Special Thanks*

At the end of the day we asked all students to complete a review for us and tell us what they had gained from the activities, we will be taking a close look at this in the next few days. There are many staff to thank for their hard work and energy. Mr Ian Stewart and Ms Sonya Papps for their thought provoking introduction to the day and Mr Chris Papps. The Pastoral Leadership Team, Mr David Bracken, Mr James Woodall, Mrs Rowena Bracken, Mr Henri Labuschagne, Mr Gavin Winter and Mr Darren Latchford who all prepared excellent activities and resources and led their themes. Mr Dmitri Haas, Mr Graham Bean, Mr Matthew Hill, Mr Jonathan Marshall and Mr Leighton Edwards also led groups for the day. All British Section and High School Section teachers spent the day running the activities and without their support the day would not have taken place.

Thanks must also be extended to : Tian Yeong, translator and presenter(H4), Paulina Fainberg(H4), Chris Walters(H3), Jade Lu(H3), Renae Gasawradikul(H3), Ignacio Lamas(H4) Julia Yuan(H3) and David Lachize(H3) who provided excellent support as student helpers and also Nina Chen our BS Secretary . Thanks must be extended to the students who made the day a day to remember.

Rachel Harris  
Assistant Head (Student Welfare)

IDT Gallery

Extremism - Race and Discrimination - Conflict



*Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

Margaret Mead  
Anthropologist

IDT Presentations and Art Work



IDT Gallery

Disability and Shared Humanity



IDT Gallery

SEAL' and Disability





*of the Taipei European School*

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2008**  
**Nov 29th (Saturday ) 11:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**  
**Wen Lin Road Campus**

To All TES parents,

Preparations are under way for this year's **Christmas Bazaar**. This is the **TES PSC's** biggest fund-raising event and we need your help. Preceding Bazaars have been hugely successful due to the great response and participation of our parents. This year, we are hoping, this participation will even be better!!

We need donations of cakes, cookies or any baked goods that will, in turn, be sold at the Bazaar.

Donations can be brought to the school, perhaps with your child, on Friday, November 28, or brought to the Bazaar itself on Saturday, Dec 1st. Remember, the baked goods can be homemade or store-brought, it's up to you.

Another great way to participate would be to donate your time on the day of the Bazaar. It's time well-spent making new friends and seeing familiar faces, but best of all, it's fun!

Please complete the attached form and send it back to school with your child. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Alice Hsia ([alicehsia@hotmail.com](mailto:alicehsia@hotmail.com) ; 0910 344 058 ),

We look forward to your favourable reply and generous support.

See you at the Christmas Bazaar. And, thanks...

-----xxx-----xxx-----xxx-----xxx-----xxx

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Class \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/email \_\_\_\_\_

___ Cake	without alcohol ___	with alcohol ___
	Without nuts ___	with nuts ___
___ Cookies	Without alcohol ___	with alcohol ___
	Without nuts ___	with nuts ___
___ Other	_____	

I can also help at the Christmas Bazaar at the following time/s \_\_\_\_\_



*of the Taipei European School*

## 2008學年度聖誕節園遊會

時間 11月29日 星期六11:00-17:30

文林路校區

親愛的家長：

今年園遊會的準備工作已經在積極的籌備當中，這是本學年度台北歐洲學校家長會最大的募款盛會，我們希望您的參與和協助。往年的成功都是基於家長的支持及贊助，今年我們希望新的文林校區啓用後的第二次聖誕園遊會能做得更好、更成功 !!

我們需要您幫忙提供一些蛋糕、餅乾或甜點讓我們可以在園遊會現場販賣。

您自製或購買的糕點可於11月28日請學生帶到學校，因為學校沒有冷藏空間，建議您若是有需要冷藏冷凍的產品，煩請您於當天送達。

另一個很好的參與辦法 -

是貢獻您的寶貴時間來參與現場的販售。您可藉此機會認識很多新朋友；但最重要的是，這是一份很有趣的工作。

若是您願意提供糕點，請您填寫背面的回條並讓學生交給學校。若是您有任何問題，也歡迎您隨時來電詢問：  
**Alice Hsia ([alicehsia@hotmail.com](mailto:alicehsia@hotmail.com) ; 0910 344 058 )**,

歡迎您與家人及朋友一同前往，也謝謝您的支持。

**Tabitha House Building project - Cambodia, November 2008**

**More details to come in our next Newsletter.....**



**Tabitha House Building project - Cambodia, November 2008**

